

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 29, 1993

Published Since 1877

## ICCM speakers say porn will flood cable systems

ARLINGTON, Texas (BP) — The 500 channel cable system of the future will be "far too tempting for the porn peddlers to stay away from for long," said Bill Airy, president of VGI, Inc., which handles distribution, marketing, and sales for The Faith and Values Channel.

Airy spoke to participants at the International Conference on Communications Ministries June 29 at the Arlington Convention Center, sponsored by the Radio and Television Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention. He said, "I have the impression that they're (pornographers) just waiting until the mainstream applications gain acceptance before they introduce their product to the marketplace."

Airy said he recently attended a convention in New York where John Evans, an executive with Rupert Murdoch's media empire, told why Americans have VHS video tape machines in their homes.

"Mr. Evans said that even though Sony's Beta format was clearly much better than VHS, the adult programmers settled on VHS as the standard for pornographic movies on videocassette," said Airy. "The incredible demand for in-home pornography actually set the standard for home video."

He said one of Evans's statements was he expects pornography to drive the development of digital television.

Airy said digital television is here to stay, that it will be coming to cable systems in just 18 months, and it is imperative the Christian community be involved.

Erwin Lutzer, senior pastor of the Moody Church in Chicago, Ill., told conference participants Christians are losing the battle in the area of freedom of religion.

"The America we knew is gone.

We should have recognized it when prayer was curtailed in the public schools... and with the *Roe vs. Wade* abortion decision. There was no vote by the people that God has to be separated from public property."

Lutzer said Christians are "losing it" in the public schools and media.

Ted Baehr told conference participants the church is using 16th century technology while "the media are dropping smart bombs into the minds of our children."

Baehr is CEO of the Christian Film and Television Commission and editor of Movieguide, a biblical guide to movies and entertainment.

"Today what we are seeing in Hollywood are the consequences of the retreat of the church from being salt and light in our society," he said.

Baehr said in the '20s and early '30s only 20% of America's families went to the movie box office, but by 1966 it was up to 90%.

"That's because 90% knew they could take their families without being offended," he said, "...and that's because of the influence of the churches.

"In a recent poll 92% of Christian teens admitted they'd seen hardcore pornography by the time they were 17," Baehr said. "And 72% of all teens say they want to copy what they see in violent and sexually explicit films. And 31% say they have.

"According to the Attorney Gen-

eral's office, 22% of teenage crime is copied after what they see."

Baehr said the average teen sees 40,000 hours of television before he or she reaches the age of 17, which include 400,000 sex acts, 200,000 acts of violence, and 33,000 murders.

"Those are just stats," he said, "and stats are hard to deal with. But we're putting our kids on the front line of spiritual warfare with respect to the media before they reach a period of discernment."

## Mississippi missionary has heart for inner city

By David Winfrey

NEW ORLEANS — While many students pick a seminary based on teachers or reputation, Loretta Rivers had another motive.

"I chose New Orleans Seminary because of the opportunity to work in Baptist centers here," said Rivers, who graduated in 1991 and is now a home missionary with Carver Baptist Center.

Rivers said she knew studying in a town with five Baptist centers would offer the experience she wanted to pursue full-time ministry after school.

Although she always planned on dedicating her life to ministry, Rivers said she never expected while growing up in rural Mississippi that she would work in the inner-city.

"I'd assumed foreign missions. That's what I'd always heard about in GAs and Acteens," said Rivers, a native of Union. Inner-city ministry "wasn't an option because I didn't know what it was."

Work as a summer missionary in Chicago, however, opened her eyes to needs in America, she said.

Now at Carver Center, Rivers said she is doing what she always expected to do: share Christ with others while meeting needs. "It's just not in the place I thought it would be."

Located in uptown New Orleans, one block from the loading docks along the Mississippi River, Carver Center meets a multitude of needs in the surrounding low-income neighborhood, she said.

In addition to adult Bible studies, senior citizens work, and crisis ministries of food and clothing, Rivers has several programs for ministering to children who live nearby.

More than just teaching youth Bible stories, Rivers said her goal is to show their relevance to the 1990s. "Too many times they know the Bible story, but they have no idea how the things in Paul's life relate to the things in their life."

She said her greatest challenge is working with teens, many of whom live in single-parent households. "I just really want them to

know that God is real and God is concerned about all the problems in their lives and that he has the

answers to those problems."

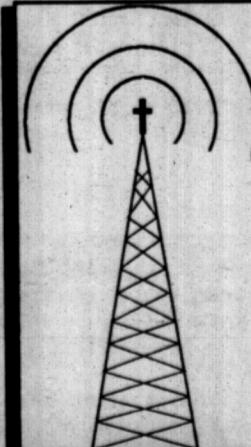
Winfrey is associate director, News and Information, HMB.



TIME TO TALK — Home missionary Loretta Rivers talks with students at the Carver Baptist Center in New Orleans. Rivers, a Mississippi native, said she hopes to teach youths the Bible's relevance to issues in the 1990s. She said her greatest challenge is working with teens, many of whom live in single-parent households. (HMB photo by David Winfrey)

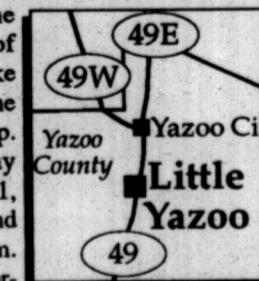
### Christian radio jeopardized

BUENOS AIRES (EP) — The closure of three Christian radio stations in Argentina leaves Christian broadcasters fearing future closures of other stations. In recent months the Federal Committee for Radio Broadcasting has closed The Sound of Life, Symphony of Friendship, and FM 88.3 Christian Radio. Oswaldo Casati, president of the Association of Evangelical Social Communicators, told News Network International that the vast majority of an estimated 2,700 radio stations in Argentina operate without legal license — including nearly 100 Protestant broadcast facilities — and are at risk of government crackdown at any time.



### Concord celebrates 150th

A small church was organized in 1843 in the hills of central Yazoo County to meet the needs of the rural community. Concord Church stands 150 years later on the original land deeded by Robert Spiars for the purpose of building a place of worship. A meeting will again take place there for the same reason the church was organized: to worship. Services will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. on August 1, followed by morning worship and dinner on the ground. The 2 p.m. afternoon service will include former pastors and the burial of a time capsule for the bicentennial in the year 2043. Revival services will be held August 2-6, at 7 p.m., and will feature a former pastor each night. Concord Church is located just off Highway 49 South at Little Yazoo. Contact Jeanette Neely at (601) 755-2346.



### Looking back...

#### 10 years ago

Plans were announced for a trial run of the *Baptist Record* as a tabloid-size newspaper, as opposed to the present broadsheet format.

#### 20 years ago

A \$1.25 million fundraising campaign began with the goal of rebuilding Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian, destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

#### 30 years ago

Mississippi Baptists went on record in their state news journal opposing attempts by the Mississippi Legislature to repeal liquor prohibition laws in the state.

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

## No creed but Christ

Baptists have shunned creedalism since the early days in Europe and England when many were persecuted by a state church. "No creed but Christ" was the favorite expression of the freedom-loving Baptists.

W.A. Criswell, in his *Guidebook for Pastors*, states that Baptists do not believe in "creeds of the faith" but they have "everlastingly believed in 'confessions of the faith.'" Creeds carry the idea of an authoritative body, but confessions are an avowal of belief in the doctrines of a particular faith.

In 1925 the SBC adopted a revised New Hampshire Declaration and called it "The Baptist Faith and Message." This was revised again in 1963. Largely this statement has been ignored by the churches. We use it often to prove a point or as a platform for arguments. Baptists still have a suspi-

cion of any creed-like statements.

Are we changing? Is there a drift toward "nailing it down" as to what Baptists must believe if acceptable to the larger group?

In the recent Houston convention the SBC voted to amend the constitution (Article III) to read that any church approving homosexuality should be considered "as not" being in friendly cooperation with the SBC.

Baptists have wisely used "resolutions" to denote disapproval, but now the stately constitution is being eyed as the means of change. Even SBC Executive Committee President Morris Chapman approved the constitutional alteration but is now seeking to apply the brakes.

"While I fully support the constitutional amendment with regard to homosexuality, we must be very

careful about transforming the constitution of the SBC into a statement of faith and practice. We have the 'Baptist Faith and Message' and other avenues to express our conviction on moral and social issues," says Chapman.

This statement is right on target, and we applaud Chapman for it. Of course, we could wish he had made it prior to the convention.

Abortion, church/convention polity, and the ordination of women will probably be heavy items at the next convention.

More social evils loom on the horizon. As Chapman stated, we have "other avenues to express our convictions on moral and social issues."

Trying to hammer our constitution into an acceptable statement of the practice and behavior of Baptists is risky at best.

### Ethics and religion

## Marriage Encounters are renewal

By Michael J. McManus

### Fourth of a 7-part series

My marriage to Harriet was under great stress in 1976. My work in Connecticut had ended, and I found myself commuting from Stamford to Washington, D.C.

I'd get on a train at 2 a.m. Monday, roll into Washington by 8, work all week, and came home Friday night, arriving about 11 p.m.

While home, I was buried in writing. Harriet put up with this graciously for months. I was not a good father or husband. During those months, friends at church began asking, "Why don't you and Harriet go on a Marriage Encounter weekend? It's a way to strengthen your marriage."

Somewhat miffed, I retorted, "I already have a good marriage."

"But Marriage Encounter is designed to make a good marriage better!"

It seemed like a good idea to me. But when I mentioned it to Harriet, she said "No!" rather sharply. "We can't afford it," she added.

Harriet eventually ran out of excuses. We drove to a motel, arriving late Friday. Every couple who had urged us to go was already there! They had decorated the place, fixed a special meal and served it. "We love you," they said to the 20 attending couples.

After dinner, three couples we did not know, made the first of many intimate presentations about their marriages, on one key idea: "Emotions must be expressed—not repressed. One's feelings are neither right nor wrong. They simple are. If not expressed, a spouse

cannot understand you. As Paul writes, 'Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.'"

We were then asked to go to our rooms, to write "love letters" to describe what we liked about our spouses and our marriages. Then we exchanged letters and talked about them privately.

The talks from the lead couples were often deeply moving. Father Bob, an Episcopal priest, confessed, "I was married to my job. I gave little time to Susan. The parish was my world."

Then we were asked to write a "love letter" to our spouse sharing something "that I couldn't or didn't share." I was shocked by Harriet's letter. She wrote she felt "bruised" by my work in Washington. "You left me for a year and a half... quite voluntarily. I felt deserted. This is NO marriage. I never see you during the week."

"You work all the time and don't even take the boys for a swim. This is not why I married you. You're a workaholic. You love your work, not me."

I broke down and wept. I was so absorbed in the difficulty of my life that I had not realized its impact on Harriet. I asked her forgiveness.

That experience taught me that it is absolutely essential to take time out with one's spouse every day. (For 17 years, we have gotten up earlier than usual for unstructured talk, reading of Scripture, and prayer. Christ became a third partner of our marriage.)

Harriet and I fell back in love that weekend.

Some 30 academic studies report that 80-90% of attendees find new jobs. As an 80-year-old exclaimed, "We have this to say: Every couple should make a Marriage Encounter. It's like coming home with a new bride!"

One study of 325 couples who attended over the last 25 years reports that nearly half said their marriage was only fair to poor beforehand, and only 48 said it was excellent. Immediately afterward, 200 said the marriage was excellent, an astonishing four-fold growth.

Father Gabriel Calvo, a Spanish priest who created Marriage Encounter, wrote in *Face to Face: Becoming A Happier Married Couple*:

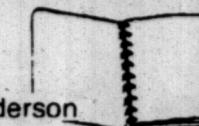
"There is within each couple a divine energy of love and if it can be brought alive, it can loose a true revolution of love over the whole earth. But in order for this energy to be produced, it has to be released in deep sharing between husband and wife, through the communication of their feelings and of their whole life together. It cannot be done in one moment but rather through dialogues of many hours and days."

Marriage Encounter is a movement in 10 denominations. To learn of the next Marriage Encounter in your faith tradition near you, phone 1-800-795-LOVE.

McManus has written "Ethics & Religion" since 1981, a syndicated newspaper column. This series is based on research for his new book, *MARRIAGE SAVERS*.

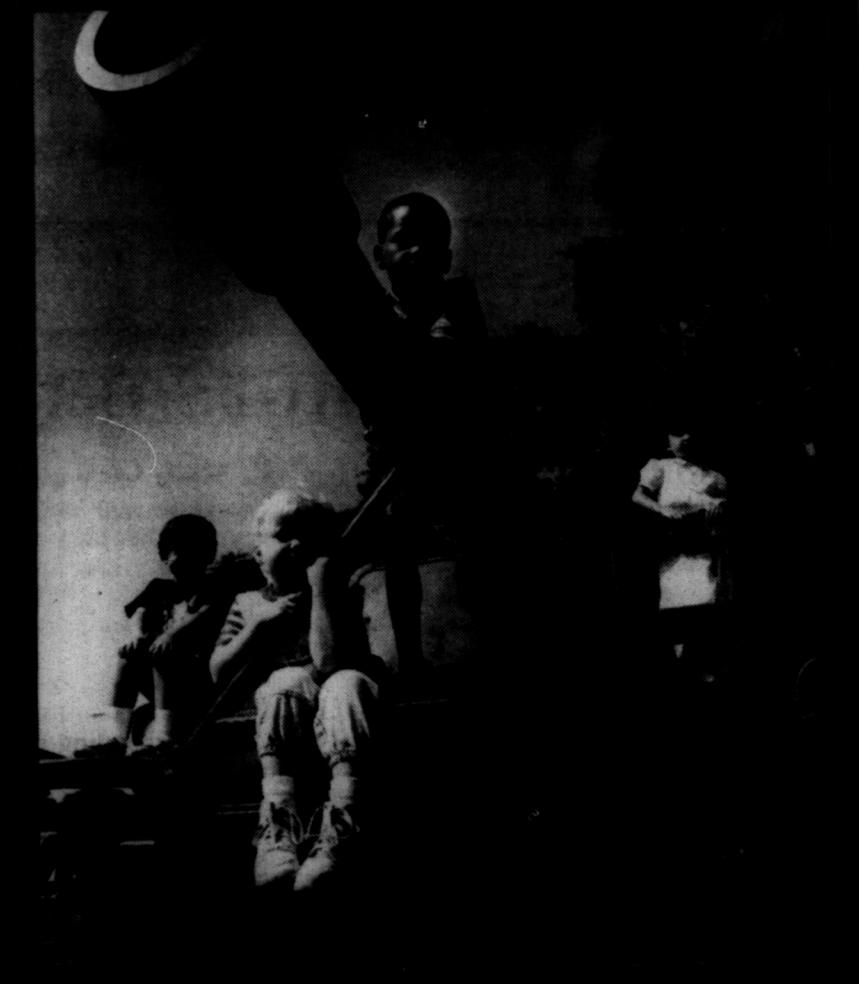
Thursday, July 29, 1993

Guy Henderson



'My peace I give unto you'

John 14:27



Observe Day of Prayer for World Peace

August 1, 1993

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission  
of the Southern Baptist Convention

### THE FRAGMENTS

## Cross-Match

It was encouraging to note that the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development is promoting a "Cross-Match Program." The purpose is to facilitate the buying and selling of Mississippi manufactured products to Mississippi industries. This portends great economic benefits for our state.

The economic factor is important to our churches as well as to education, government, and the security of our citizens.

"It costs \$10,000 to keep a person in college. It costs \$30,000 per year to keep a person in prison. Yet we are closing schools and building prisons."

That was a quotation heard in one of our churches lately. Jobless people are restless people, and crime grows in such fertile fields. Self-esteem is lost, a citizen has gone from a productive individual to one for whom the state pays his room and board.

For a season my father ran a grocery store and I well remember him telling my mother to "trade with the people who trade with us." Mom did not go to the big

cities for school clothes and supplies; we traded with the locally-owned stores in our hometown.

Sure, we may have paid a few cents more, but the welfare of our neighboring merchants had a large bearing upon our welfare and the welfare of the community and church. I can still feel guilty trading with out-of-state people just to save a few cents. Cross-Match sounds a lot like keeping our money in the state, and letting it turn over a few times to benefit everyone.

The psalmist said, "Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and thou shalt be fed" (Ps. 37:3). The NIV translates the latter part as "and enjoy safe pasture." Derek Kidner, in *Tynale's Commentary*, says "enjoy security" is a possible translation of the Hebrew and that security most often means "faithfulness."

We love the "safe pasture" image. It's a picture of pleasure living in a safe haven where every man helps his brother. The more we lift him, the higher we are able to climb.

— GH

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## FMB seeks to attract money going to non-Baptist groups

By Marty Croll

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Foreign Mission Board is seeking to attract more of the money Southern Baptists give to other mission groups that more effectively personalize their work to donors.

FMB leaders say untold millions of Southern Baptist dollars find their way into foreign mission efforts operating outside denominational channels. An action at the 1993 Southern Baptist Convention in Houston has added momentum to existing efforts by the board to attract that revenue into denominational missions and involve a wider number of Southern Baptists in foreign missions.

Recommendation 19, passed by messengers in June, asked both the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to design a way churches can support annual mission offerings by funding specific projects. The request, which FMB leaders will respond to after study, is part of a plan to re-accelerate the SBC's Bold Mission Thrust to reach the world for Jesus Christ by the year 2000.

Many cite woes in the economy

and the 14-year internal SBC conflict as part of the reason the FMB's finances have lagged behind expectations.

Lottie Moon revenues have shown annual decreases two of the last three years. Cooperative Program receipts have fallen the past two years. Thus, spending power has suffered a hit.

New FMB President Jerry Rankin predicts Southern Baptists "can have 5,000 missionaries and \$100 million" a year in Lottie Moon receipts by the year 2000 "if we get in tune with what God wants us to do.... Although there's been a downturn in finances, the final report on the 1992 Lottie Moon offering was the second highest in history — \$80,980,881," he said.

Working with the Woman's Missionary Union, which founded the offering, and the Brotherhood Commission, the board will form a pastor's advisory council to be led by three nationally known pastors: John Bisagno, First Church, Houston; Frank Pollard, First Church, Jackson; and Dan

Yearly, North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz.

And the FMB will use about \$10,000 of the extra allotment to design efforts for selected churches similar to last year's at Second Church, Houston.

Another new FMB project seeks to link large churches with efforts involving missionaries and unreached people groups. While giving through this project would be considered separate from the Lottie Moon offering, Don Kammerdiener, FMB executive vice president, views the approach as a model for cooperation with some Southern Baptist churches.

"Churches are saying to us that we really do want to participate in individual projects with the Foreign Mission Board," Kammerdiener said.

"The best way to support foreign missions is to get churches to cooperate through the cooperative giving system. But we want to open up ways in which we can appeal to churches that don't do anything with us now."

Croll writes for FMB.

## Volunteers needed immediately in Iowa, Missouri flood country

An urgent request has been issued for 100 individual volunteers each to work flood relief in both Davenport and Des Moines, Iowa. Response teams are also needed in Missouri to clean and repair churches and homes.

Volunteers must be prepared to sleep on a church floor. Bring sleeping bags, pads, air mattresses, etc. Cooking teams are also needed to serve meals to the volunteers from the church kitchen, not from the feeding units set up in the field.

The following supplies are needed: disinfectant, bleach, detergent, mops and extra mopheads, heavy-duty squeegees, square-nosed shovels, rubber boots, and heavy-duty rubber gloves. Chain saws, sump pumps, heavy-duty hoses, high-pressure nozzles, hammers, saws, sheetrock, lumber, and nails are also needed.

Staging areas for the volunteers are: Central Park Baptist Church 3400 West Central Park Davenport, Iowa Bobby Blackmon (319) 386-4078

Supplies can be shipped to warehouse facilities in St. Louis by contacting Bob Nowlan at (314) 568-1190, or to warehouse facilities in Alton, Ill., by calling Paul Davis at (618) 258-1488.

At least 16 Missouri Baptist churches and countless homes have flood damage. Individuals or groups interested in helping should contact Jim Albers or Don Anders at the disaster relief command center at (314) 635-7931.

Please do not send supplies to Missouri. The state has adequate resources for filling those needs, and storage/distribution are major problems at this time.

Funds are always needed during major disasters. Individuals, churches, or service organizations desiring to contribute may do so by sending funds to the Brotherhood Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Be sure to designate the funds for Mississippi/Missouri River flood victims. All funds will be channeled to meet human needs through the Baptist conventions in those states affected by the floods.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Department of

the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at (601) 968-3800.

## Two vols killed, five injured

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — Two volunteers who were returning home after helping rebuild hurricane-damaged homes in South Dade County were killed July 23 when their van swerved to miss an oncoming vehicle on rain-slicked roads in Darby.

David Craig, 41, and Jane Kneese, 81, both members of First Church of Tishomingo, Okla., were thrown from the van and killed after it ran off the road, rolled three times and flipped. Five others from the group were listed in serious conditions at area hospitals after the accident on State Road 52.

The van was one of two carrying a group of 14 people, six men and eight women, who had spent the week of April 17-23 assisting in the Florida Baptist Convention's on-going disaster relief efforts in south Florida.

## Inaccurate reports cause confusion over availability of Grady Cothen's book

NASHVILLE (BP) — An inaccurate article published by an Alabama newspaper has been perpetuated by some Baptist and para-church news media, causing confusion for Baptist Book Store customers.

A book by a former Baptist Sunday School Board president, Grady Cothen, centering on the controversy among Southern Baptists since 1979, can be ordered through the BSSB's 63 bookstores, noted Charles Wilson, vice president for trade and retail markets, countering reports to the contrary in other media.

An article by William C. Singleton III, published in the May 13 issue of the Birmingham (Ala.) Post-Herald, indicated Cothen's book — *What Happened to the Southern Baptist Convention? A Memoir on the Controversy* — "might not make Baptist Book Store shelves." The assessment was part of an article about Cothen, BSSB president from 1975 until his 1984 retirement,

who was interviewed during the annual meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In a statement faxed to Singleton on the afternoon of May 13, Wilson said the Cothen book was available in the Birmingham Baptist Book Store on May 13 and would be available through the chain's other stores.

"Baptist Book Stores received a review copy of *What Happened to the Southern Baptist Convention* by Grady C. Cothen on Tuesday, May 11," Wilson's statement read. "We expedited the review process because of the approaching meeting of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship in Birmingham. The book is available in the Birmingham store today and will be available through other Baptist Book Stores."

The faxed message was confirmed with Singleton by a representative of the board's communications department, but a correction was not published by the Post-Herald.



## Pledge of purity

Young people from across the country will converge on Washington, D.C. July 29, 1994, for the finale of "True Love Waits," the national sexual abstinence campaign sponsored by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Planners hope to display up to one million sexual purity covenant cards on the mall between the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol. Washington-area youths who have already turned in their covenant cards include (back row, from left) Lisa Coleman, Derric Mabry, (front row, from left) Josh Wilson, Heather Womack, and Julio Hernandez. (BSSB photo by Jon Meyer)

Crestwood Baptist Church  
3717 Forest Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa  
Steve Melvin (515) 274-2420



## Necessity is mother of invention

Christy Davis, left, and Jennifer Bearden, right, were baptized at Calvary Church, West Point, July 11 under unusual circumstances. When a broken water pipe flooded the sanctuary and offices of the church on July 4, the drying process meant the church had to meet in its activity building to worship the following Sunday. A service incorporating baptism and the Lord's Supper seemed to be out of the question, but a little ingenuity saved the day. A local farm supply store owner loaned the church a plastic, 100-gallon stock watering trough, which served as a temporary baptismal. Walter Frederick, center, is pastor.

## Cooperative Baptist Fellowship sends relief funds to flood victims

ATLANTA (ABP) — As swollen rivers poured over levees in America's flooded Midwest, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship appealed for an outpouring of support for flood-relief efforts.

The Fellowship's global missions office allocated \$25,000 in hunger-relief funds for emergency aid for flood victims and arranged for rapid disbursement of relief contributions through its Atlanta office July 16. The Fellowship is targeting both immediate and long-term needs, leaders said.

"Our recent experience with Hurricane Andrew in Florida tells us that Baptists respond quickly and generously," said Keith Parks, CBF global missions coordinator. "But it is also a reminder that

ministry needs will remain long after the headlines are gone."

The Fellowship allocation will help fund a feeding operation at Edmundson Road Church, St. Louis, which is being coordinated by the Missouri Convention.

Gregory Hunt, pastor of Holmeswood Church, Kansas City, and moderator of Missouri's CBF chapter, said the Fellowship will coordinate its relief work with the efforts of the state convention "in every way we can."

The Home Mission Board likewise has sent \$20,000 in hunger-relief aid to support the feeding operations at Edmundson Road Church, First Church, Weston, Mo., and public schools in Winfield, Mo. More money from the HMB is expected later.

## Campers on Mission hold state rally, Greenwood

Campers on Mission state rally will be held Aug. 13-15 at Greenwood Leflore Civic Center in Greenwood.

Registration begins Aug. 13 at 2 p.m., followed that evening with music by W.C. Taylor Jr., country gospel recording artist and native of Grenada.

Jerald Welch, director of missions for Holmes and Leflore associations, will bring the message.

On Aug. 14, Jeff Chamblee, minister of music at North Greenwood Church, will perform, and Jim Phillips, pastor of North Green-

wood, will preach the message.

On Sunday morning, G.A. McCoy, chaplain for Campers on Mission, will bring the message.

Campers on Mission is a fellowship of Christian singles, families, and couples who share their faith while they camp — as tent campers, backpackers, RVers, touring cyclists, and trailer campers.

For more information on the state rally, or how to become a Camper on Mission, contact the Brotherhood Department of the MBCB, (601) 968-3800.

# Annuity Board issues statement regarding its investment policy

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

The Annuity Board's primary ministry is providing retirement benefits. The Annuity Board holds and invests money contributed to its retirement plans by churches; denominational agencies and institutions; and their ministers and employees. The Annuity Board receives no Cooperative Program allocation for operations.

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) elects the trustees who govern the Annuity Board within the letter and spirit of the SBC Constitution, Bylaws, and Business and Financial Plan. However, the Annuity Board exists by virtue of a charter issued by the State of Texas. The Annuity Board must act and carry on its affairs in accordance with Texas law even if that conflicts with the SBC Constitution, Bylaws, or Business and Financial Plan. Article XII of the SBC Constitution recognizes this obligation of the Annuity Board.

Under Texas law, the Annuity Board and its trustees and officers are fiduciaries. A "fiduciary" is one who acts for another or handles another's money in a capacity that involves a confidence or trust. Texas law required a pension plan fiduciary to invest in

accordance with the "prudent man rule" and to use assets for the sole purpose of providing retirement benefits to participants and paying reasonable administrative expenses. Under Texas and federal law, it is not appropriate for a pension plan fiduciary to exclude a category of investments for social rather than economic reasons if doing so reduces the return or increases the risk of the pension plan's investment portfolio.

Investment restrictions are governed by the following investment guideline approved and adopted by the Annuity Board's board of trustees:

"Investment in any company that is publicly recognized by the internal investment committee of the Annuity Board and by the trustee investment committee as being in the liquor, tobacco, gambling, and pornography industries or any company whose products services or activities are publicly recognized as incompatible with the moral and ethical posture of the Annuity Board are prohibited. This would include any company which fails to subscribe to the Statement of Principles, the seven-point code of affirmative

action for companies with operations in South Africa."

It is the position of the Annuity Board that by following the investment guideline it can make investments consistent with Christian principles and still adhere to the strict fiduciary obligations imposed on it by Texas and federal law. Consistent with SBC Constitution, the Annuity Board will not follow a course of action that causes it to be in violation of Texas or federal law.

While the trustees recognize that not all Southern Baptists would ever agree on the appropriateness of the individual securities of any diversified portfolio, the board of trustees has made a good-faith effort to address certain societal problems which we believe are directly caused or exacerbated by a corporation's core product.

The portfolio of stocks changes daily. It is not practical to attempt a specific response to each person's observation about specific choices.

Miller is senior vice president for public relations, Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

## Call to help others prepare results in good advice to other ministers' wives

By Lydia Murphy

education degree in 1949, her seminary instruction had gone beyond books and classroom.

"I always thought that if my husband was trying to get people involved in the church, then I should do something just like any-

body else," she said.

That involvement in ministry and Coggin's attitude of service have come back around to her many times.

Murphy writes for Southwest Seminary, Fort Worth.

**FMB warns...**

## Russian restrictions a major blow to missions

By Don Kammerdiener

On July 14th, the Russian Parliament voted favorably on a law that would severely restrict the practice of religious liberty in Russia. This law, which is aimed specifically at foreign mission activity, requires the signature of Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

I urge President Yeltsin to reject this legislation. We are praying he will discern that religious liberty is at stake in Russia. These restrictive amendments to Russia's freedom of religion law are actually a step back toward the totalitarian control of the communists.

An attack on the ability of people to share their faith is ultimately an attack on religious liberty itself, and it needs to be seen as such. The 1948 declaration by the United Nations of the rights of man is very explicit in its statement that religious liberty is a

basic human right.

This law might seem to be pointed at foreign citizens, but it is equally threatening to Russians. A government that takes upon itself the authority to limit religious expression among foreigners need not stop there. There are still strong forces in Russia that would like to see complete state control of religion.

However, those who seek to blow out the flames of religious liberty often discover that rather than extinguishing them, they fan them into greater intensity. We do not quake at opposition. Baptists have lived throughout our history with it.

Let us join in prayer that the new-found religious liberty in Russia will continue to bloom and prosper.

Kammerdiener is executive vice president, FMB.

# Precautions needed to avoid child abuse within church

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Church leaders wanting to avoid child abuse within church walls must take sensible and legal precautions, a specialist in preschool/children's ministry said during Discipleship and Family Development Conference at Ridgecrest Conference Center.

"Child abuse has come to the church," said Bill Young, retired manager of the preschool/children's area of discipleship at the Baptist Sunday School Board. "I don't want to make you paranoid, but sensitive to what is happening in the world today."

Young taught several seminars for preschool/children's ministry leaders at the BSSB-sponsored conference July 17-23.

"Only 10% of abuse toward children is committed by someone they don't know," Young said. "Parents are the perpetrators 25% of the time, then relatives, then acquaintances."

Those acquaintances could be discipleship or Sunday School teachers, he acknowledged.

The American Bar Association has written guidelines for liabilities of volunteers, sexual misconduct

of churches, and negligent hiring, Young said. Negligent hiring of staff or volunteers is usually what gets a church in trouble, he added.

Young said churches are susceptible to leaders committing child abuse and to lawsuits that follow because they tend to trust everybody who walks through the doors.

"Not enough churches have screening procedures for their volunteer workers, and consequently there is ample opportunity for a pedophile to get in. If a pedophile wanted access to children, where would be a good place to get that access? At the church," Young said.

Young suggested several ways churches could avoid child abuse from occurring inside their walls:

— Have a six-month rule. "Don't allow someone to be a teacher until he or she has been at the church at least six months."

— Provide screening forms for hired staff and volunteers. Ask pertinent questions related to the subject.

— Draft a child abuse policy for the church. Know what actions to take if child abuse is suspected. Educate parents in the area of child

abuse.

— Know the reporting requirements of your state.

"You need to look around and make sure you are covered on these particular points," he said.

A typical church response to accusations of child sexual abuse against a leader is denial, minimization, and blame. Young said if child sexual abuse is reported, the church must "promptly" remove the accused from his or her position and report the alleged act to church authorities and then to public law enforcement authorities.

The average age of a child abuse victim is now 6, Young said, as opposed to an average of 8 years in 1983.

Research demonstrates, Young said, that children over the age of 6 are just as reliable and accurate when reporting the events as are adults. Children under 6 are able to report the events but are more susceptible to pressure from the interviewer.

Young said research also indicates children give more accurate and detailed information when the interviewer is friendly toward them rather than formal and distant.



## Hobbs honored in Nashville

Herschel Hobbs (right), author, speaker, and retired pastor of First Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., acknowledges the standing ovation accorded him July 20 by employees of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. Hobbs was honored for his quarter-century as author of the widely-circulated *Studying Adult Life and Work Lessons*, a commentary on the Life and Work curriculum Sunday School lessons. (BP photo by Mike Yarber)

## WMU schedules leader training at Garaywa; north, south extensions

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) will conduct its annual Church Leader Training the first week in August at Camp Garaywa. There will also be training sessions held the latter part of the week at north and south extensions for any mission leaders who cannot attend the Garaywa training.

Lewis also announced that groundbreaking ceremonies for the mission agency's new building will be Oct. 11. The HMB has sold its present facilities in midtown Atlanta and purchased 34 acres north of the city. The new building is expected to be completed in the spring of 1995. An open house is planned during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Atlanta that year.

WMU emphasis for 1993-94 is,

"Serve in Christ's Name." All-new emphasis material will be introduced and available. Training conferences will apply to both experienced WMU church leaders and to those who have taken responsibilities for the first time.

No reservations are necessary, but those interested in attending should contact their local church WMU director. Lunch will be provided at a cost of \$4.75 for those wishing to eat on campus.

For more information, contact the local church WMU director or the WMU Department at Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.

## Gulfshore discipleship conference includes four special workshops

Feature workshops at the Aug. 5-7 Discipleship Training Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly will be four special training events.

An overview of the LIFE material, "Experiencing God," will be led by Larry Goff, BSU director at Jones County Junior College. Goff is a certified MasterLife co-leader and experienced user of "Experiencing God."

Jim Blackwell, director of pastoral services and chaplain at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Vicksburg, will lead an overview of the LIFE course, "Communication and Intimacy-Covenant Marriage," a recent addition to the family of LIFE courses and one that is of great

help to all couples—especially young couples.

A special Bible Drill leadership workshop will be conducted for those in the church with this assignment. A new film on Bible Drill work will be shown as a part of the training. The conference leader is to be announced.

Barbara Brown, special worker in church weekday education with the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, will coordinate a feature workshop for church weekday education workers during this conference.

Each of these feature workshops will run concurrently with the Foundation (basic) age group conferences. In addition to the basic age group conferences and these

feature ongoing conferences, there will be a series of one-time conferences offered each evening prior to the evening worship time.

These "New Tool" conferences will include Administering Support Groups, led by Randy Rich of Vicksburg; an overview of the new Bible-based sex education material for parents, led by Robin Nichols; and an overview of First Place materials and a preview of Search For Significance in the new LIFE Support materials, led by Charles Rodgers of First McComb.

Reservations can be made directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 100 First Street, Pass Christian, MS 39571. The telephone number is (601) 452-7261.

## Lewis asks if Southern Baptists have lost their prophetic voice

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptist pastors must speak as God's prophets on social and moral issues of the day, according to Larry Lewis, Home Mission Board president.

"In a day when society tells us an unborn baby isn't a person, when we see moral decadence expressed in nearly every manner imaginable, and when it takes 44 Southern Baptists to win one person to the Lord, we don't seem to be speaking forcefully to those types of issues," Lewis told directors of the HMB during their July meeting.

Lewis also praised the selection of Jerry Rankin as the new Foreign Mission Board president during his address and said efforts to personalize missions giving could be an "administrative nightmare."

Concerning moral issues, Lewis asked whether pastors have lost their prophetic voice while people are hurting from moral decadence. "Lost people are doing what you would expect lost people to do. We as people of God are not."

"Maybe our conscience is seared. Maybe our concern has waned. Maybe we have resolved in our heart that there really is nothing we can do, so we accept it," Lewis said. "But we're here to be champions of righteousness and holiness in our world, and I don't think we see the world as we should."

The missions leader said he thanks God for the bold positions taken by the Christian Life Commission and its president, Richard

Land. "But one agency cannot adequately affect our nation. Local churches and pastors must be God's instruments of righteousness in their communities."

He shared with board members when he was a boy in Missouri a local bowling alley applied for a license to sell liquor. "My pastor wasn't going to let it happen. We crowded into the council chamber, sat in the window sills, and filled the building... and we didn't let it happen."

Lewis said he has a renewed vision of the impact one individual can have, citing such examples as Noah, Abraham, Paul, Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, and Billy Graham.

"We must see the potential of what God can do, what God wants to do, what God will do if we will just say, 'God, let me be that one person you can count on.'"

Lewis also expressed some concern over the potential impact of efforts to "personalize gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. If a large number of churches choose to specify their offering, it could be an administrative nightmare."

SBC messengers in Houston passed a recommendation from the SBC Executive Committee which calls for the Home and Foreign Mission Boards to develop a plan through which churches may support special missions offerings by funding specific projects identified by the two boards.

According to Lewis, "It is my hope, my prayer, Southern Baptists will see the wisdom of

# Russian ploy to curb freedom meets opposition

By Marty Croll

MOSCOW (BP) — A Russian Orthodox ploy to backpeddle from bold advances in religious freedom has brought forth a resounding shout of opposition from human rights groups on both sides of the Atlantic.

A measure awaiting President Boris Yeltsin's approval would give the government new authority to say what religions can legally operate on Russian soil. It would also ban foreigners from mission work in Russia without special accreditation, unless they are attached to a registered religion.

Passed by Parliament July 14, the amendment to Russia's 1990 law on "Freedom of Conscience and Religious Organizations" is a backlash against the proliferation of groups from the West sharing a wide range of beliefs in Russia. It amends the 1990 law on religious freedom that swept away seven decades of repression under communists.

Americans — and Baptists in particular — are prominent among foreigners working to spread the gospel among the people of Russia.

Many in Moscow believe the only hope to keep Yeltsin from signing the bill is for President Bill Clinton or former President Jimmy Carter to intervene by contacting Yeltsin, said Norman Lytle, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist representatives in Russia.

"The greater majority... feel (that with) the pressure of the Orthodox leadership and Yeltsin's need of their support... that he will probably be inclined to sign," said Lytle. Knowing Western reaction could

sway him, supporters were urging Yeltsin the day after its passage to return home from vacation and sign the bill before international reaction hit.

The Baptist World Alliance, a coalition of world Baptist bodies, has launched an offensive against the law, including a letter from General Secretary Denton Lotz to Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei asking him to reconsider his support for the measure.

"In the long run this amendment will be counterproductive because it goes against the spirit of the Gospels and against human desire of all people to have religious freedom without indoctrination or hindrance from the State," Lotz wrote. "Can we really return to the 19th century state church mentality where only one church controls the religious life of the people?"

The law finds strong backing from Patriarch Alexei and from hardliners left over from communist days. It was introduced under the leadership of Vyacheslav Polosin, an Orthodox priest and chairman of Parliament's Committee on Freedom of Conscience.

Some Baptists in Russia say the Orthodox Church restricted religious freedom even more oppressively than the communist regime that succeeded it in 1917. Since the fall of communism, evangelicals have feared the return of Orthodox domination in politics.

"I'm not surprised at the attempt by the Orthodox Church to do this," said Richard Land, executive director of Southern Baptists' Christian Life Commission. "But I'm a little surprised at the timing, while Russia is trying to get West-

ern aid. There's nothing the Russian government could do to more clearly undercut support from Americans than limit human rights and freedom of conscience."

"It would be a great embarrassment to the nation and a reversal of their public pledges if Russia were to back away from the agreements," said James Dunn, who worked with Russian leaders to encourage approval of the accords.

Dunn is executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, a religious liberty agency in Washington supported by 10 national Baptist bodies, state Baptist conventions, and individual donors including some Southern Baptists.

In a July 14 fax to Mikhail Mityukov, chairman of the committee for state legislation in Parliament, Dunn warned: "Should these severe measures be taken, authentic religious pluralism would be denied, the goals of the Helsinki accords... violated and advances... for religious liberty... reversed."

European Baptist leader Karl Heinz Walter said the law limits the freedom of any non-Orthodox group working in Russia. "The Russian government would again have the power to control religion, much as the government of the former U.S.S.R. did," said Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation and regional secretary for Europe for the Baptist World Alliance.

Since an April meeting between Yeltsin and Russian religious leaders, newspapers throughout Russia have accused Baptists with originating the idea of restricting missionary activity in the nation. They have also widely espoused Ortho-



**Two women count believers' offerings** following the Sunday morning service on June 6, in the First Baptist Church of Irkutsk, Siberia (Russia). "The members of the 26 churches in our area have begun to tithe their income," said Michael Sergei Tolmachev, director of the Regional Association of Baptist Churches in Irkutsk. Tolmachev estimated that as many as 50% of the members are "tithees." This encouraging development has allowed the association to pay for the work of 16 missionary church planters who are working in nine cities of this vast territory. Nowadays, the contributions are in hundreds and thousands of paper rubles, instead of hundreds of now-worthless kopek coins. (EBPS photo by Stanley Crabb)

dox leaders' rationale in supporting restrictions.

Russian writer James Krolav, in analyzing the development of the amendments, said Orthodox leaders teamed with journalists using tactics of old to discredit foreign missionaries.

"The mechanism of bolshevistic propaganda still works," he wrote. "Its results are in the wide newspaper drive against foreign missions. Bolsheviks during their campaigns against religion always used a simple method: to write about the worst sects as typical representa-

tives of religion."

Vasile Logvinenko, president of Russian Baptists, said press reports quoting him as supporting the law were "a deception," twisting his misgivings about the wide range of ideologies coming into Russia. He failed in repeated attempts to be heard on the committee that adopted the new law, he said. "We made a number of statements before it was passed, through our representative in Preparatory Committee, but they did not take any notice of it."

Croll writes for FMB.



The tiny Baptist associational office "building" of the Irkutsk Baptist Regional Association in central Siberia (Russia), can set an example for Christian leaders on how to economize in denominational headquarters. The "building," a delapidated wooden shack located behind other buildings in the city of Irkutsk, includes space for the associational offices (two rooms) and a small apartment for the president of the association. Five persons regularly work in the office. Sixteen home (associational) missionaries look to the office for their salaries and their printed materials. They are guided by the associational director, Michael Sergei Tolmachev (right). With him are Vladimir Ryaguzov (left), director of the Russian Baptist Union's Bible Institute in Moscow, and Karl-Heinz Walter, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation. (EBPS photo by Stanley Crabb)

## Russia inundated by cults of all kinds

By Mike Creswell & Marty Croll

MOSCOW (BP) — The crash of the Iron Curtain opened the way for a parade into Russia of such U.S.-based cult groups as Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses and such Eastern religious groups as disciples of Hare Krishna and transcendental meditation.

But the proliferation of cults does present a problem, which Russians — including Christians — must learn naturally accompanies freedom, according to religious liberty experts. Freedom gives choices and choices are confusing — especially in a society which has had little opportunity to make them.

Hare Krishnas dance and chant in popular Moscow places such as Pushkin Square to win adherents. They share the space with evangelicals from the West who preach, perform street drama, and pass out Bibles and tracts. Many wear T-shirts emblazoned with Bible verses or religious slogans.

Baptists and other evangelicals are not happy about the influx of alien faiths in their midst because they complicate the sharing of the

simple Christian gospel. In fact, many Russian Baptists are frustrated that fellow evangelicals — including Baptists — come with their own agendas ignorant of ongoing evangelism efforts. The result? Their programs are ineffective or even counterproductive to local churches.

In recent months Russian Orthodox followers have reprinted and circulated a strongly anti-Baptist brochure from the early 1900s. It portrays Baptists as an "imported" religion and the Russian Orthodox Church as the only correct religion for Russians. "If you're Russian you should be Orthodox" is the brochure's essential message, said Southern Baptist missionary George Lozuk. He and his wife, Veda Rae, were the first Southern Baptist career missionaries to serve in Russia.

The Orthodox may be targeting Baptists because of their rapid growth. Baptists baptize more than 30,000 new believers a year and are starting new congregations quickly across the region. They have launched scores of new Sun-

day Schools, prison ministries, schools, and other types of work.

But cult groups struggle to get a foothold in Russia also. Along with the traditional door-to-door efforts of Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses, some cults are "devious," Lozuk charged. Followers of the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon, known as "Moonies," offer Russian families free camping trips, but they turn out to be indoctrination sessions on Moonie beliefs, Lozuk said.

In the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, Southern Baptists maintain one missionary couple. About 3,000 Mormon missionaries will arrive there in August.

"When Baptists deal with people they finally realize we're not one of these extremist sects, but the propaganda is being put out all the time that says we are," Lozuk said.

Administrators of the Foreign Mission Board are monitoring the situation in Russia closely as they prepare to send still more personnel into the region.

Creswell and Croll write for FMB.

# HOUSETOPS

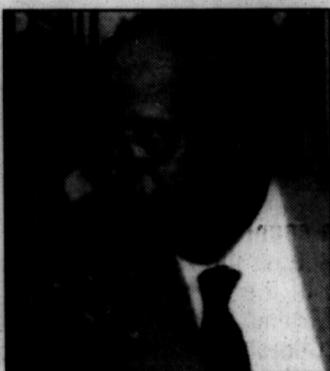
What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 29, 1993

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Jake Swanson: Cooperative Program Champion

by Debbie Baird Buie



Jake Swanson

For each of the divisions and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board there are budgets made up of items that represent needs.

Some needs are vital—essential to the work or even the very existence of the job it does. All of the needs represented enable Mississippi Baptists to show the love of God to their fellow Mississippians and perhaps bring many of them to Jesus.

It is the task of the MBCB Budget Committee to evaluate each of these budgets and every request made within them. The bottom line is—some requests may have to be tabled to another year or at the very least, cut back. It's an awesome task for this group of committed stewards to accomplish.

Jake Swanson, a retired mechanical engineer from Diamondhead, chairs the Budget Committee. He says that the proposed 1994 MBCB budget may look big, but cut into little pieces "it shrinks fast."

During a recent Budget Committee meeting he said that during his engineering career he dealt with numbers and profits. "Here," he says, "we are dealing with lives and souls."

Swanson is a "lame duck" chairman and member of the Budget Committee. He has served six consecutive years on it. It was at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, that he got into the "stewardship business" during an emphasis where giving a percentage of the church's budget was stressed instead of giving a set amount.

Now a member and chairman of the deacons at Diamondhead Baptist Church, Swanson also serves as chairman of the church's Finance Committee.

Swanson knows it will be difficult finalizing this new budget plan deciding how to allocate your Cooperative Program dollars. He and the others on the Budget Committee have a holy task set before them. Their decisions will affect to a large degree what Mississippi Baptists will be able to accomplish in God's Name in the coming year. But we are assured by their good judgment and commitment to prayer.

As Swanson says—"lives and souls." From the children given over to the care of the Baptist Children's Village by

## CSC COLLEGE STUDENT CONFERENCE

September 24-25, 1993  
First Baptist Church

## ALL STAR LINE-UP



### WAYNE WATSON

Concert

7:00 p.m.  
cost: \$5

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- Reaching People You Love with the Gospel
- Dating, Sex & Waiting for Marriage
- What Do Other Religious Believe?
- Listening to God and Others - Learning to be Sensitive
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968-3800, ext. 3899

Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female	Zip _____
School Address _____	City _____	Phone _____	City _____
Home Address _____	Phone _____	College _____	Church Membership _____
City _____	Phone _____	City _____	Zip _____
Lodging Information While at the conference			
Place _____	Phone _____	Place _____	Phone _____
In Case of Emergency Contact:			
Name _____	Phone _____	Name _____	Phone _____

## PRAYERGRAM July 15-29, 1993

**P**RAY for Southern Baptist missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge who are doing agricultural evangelistic work in Haiti. Pray for the "boat people" who are trying so hard to make the dangerous trip to the USA to relocate here.

**P**RAY for missionary Wade Adkins as he conducts spiritual awakening and pioneer evangelism conferences in Brazil.

**P**RAY for the new Southern Baptist missionaries who are attempting to establish work on the largely unevangelized island of Reunion - an island off the southeastern coast of Africa near Madagascar. Pray for Stan and Jan McFall.

**P**RAY for Kenneth Hale and his wife Sandra who are working with college students at Dartmouth University. They have experienced the beginnings of spiritual awakening in the Trinity Baptist Church in Hanover, N.H., after special meetings led by Henry Blackaby.

**P**RAY for the Royal Gorge Baptist Association of Pueblo, Colo., and the director of missions Bill

Irwin. Pray for 3 new churches the association is trying to begin: Texas Creek, Ophir Creek, and Gardner. Summer missionaries are working in these 3 communities.

**P**RAY that Mississippi Baptists will join in the HMB-SBC goal that every church have an intercessory prayer ministry by 1995.

**P**RAY for the wives and children of Baptist pastors in Mississippi and for the families of Associational Directors of Missions.

**P**RAY for the Church WMU Leader Training to be held at Garaywa on August 9-10; at New Albany/Biloxi on August 13; and Tylertown/Greenville on August 14. Pray for God to direct strategy plans for its continuing focus on Missions.

**P**RAY for the Chinese Mission of First Baptist Church, Greenville, Miss., that it may continue to reach the Chinese people in the area with the good news of Jesus.

**MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST PRAYERLINE  
969-PRAY**

## A Plea for Help from ALASKA!

Rabbit Creek Church in Anchorage, Alaska, is in need of some construction help for September and/or October of this year.

This is an aggressive, growing church that needs help for inside finish work. They began the building this summer but have had delays.

They can use teams of any size. Each person will be responsible for travel and meals. The church will provide housing.

Time is critical, as is the need. Please call the Partnership Missions Office at 968-3800 or write P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 if interested or more information is needed.



### Prepare them for **LIFE**

First Baptist Church  
Brookhaven, Miss.  
August 13-14, 1993

**•Help youth experience God daily in**  
**-PRAYER**  
**-BIBLE STUDY**  
**-WITNESSING**

- For youth leaders and church staff**
- Leader - Glen Whatley, A national DiscipleLife leader from New Orleans**
- 7-9 p.m., Friday and 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday**
- Workshop fee is \$45 - DiscipleYouth Library, Bible and Breaks**
- Prepare them for Life - Put it on your calendar**
- Sign-up now—Send name, telephone number and address to:  
Robin D. Nichols, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205**



Arnold Norsworthy will lead a conference on "Storefront Missions" Thursday, August 12, 1993, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Baptist Building in Jackson. Norsworthy is the Director of the Christian Ministries Department for the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Participants will hear emphasis on identifying the hurting and providing ministries to persons who need the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The event will be provided through the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Please call 968-3800, ext. 3961, for registration information.



The first ever Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir performs its final concert at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. The 45 young people, directed by Richard Joiner of Mississippi College, performed in eight concerts, July 16-20. Selected in tryouts, the group traveled to University Church, Hattiesburg; Gulf shore Baptist Assembly; First Church, Ocean Springs at the Gulf Coast Youth Music Celebration; First Church, Laurel; First Church, Greenwood; North Oxford Church, Oxford; West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, and at Alta Woods. Choir coordinator was Susan Clark, contract consultant for the convention board. Accompanist was Tommy Creel, a student at MC.

## Lay Missions Conference

### Marketplace Ministry: "Going Into Your Marketplace"

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and our world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

Conference: 3:00 p.m.  
Banquet: 5:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$7.50 per person

November 15, 1993  
First Baptist Church, Jackson

#### Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations at \$7.50 each.

Mail this form to: Lay Missions Conference • Cooperative Missions Dept.  
P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

**When you look at your church budget this year, will you have a worldwide view?**

Like many churches, you begin budget preparation in early fall, and Cooperative Program giving is a part of that budget. The Cooperative Program allows your church to participate in world-sized ministry.

Have you thought of the many needs the Cooperative Program meets around the world? It helps carry the message of Jesus Christ by funding home and foreign missions, and providing for education, Christian discipleship training and care ministries. The needs are enormous.

**So when planning your church budget, think on a world scale**



## 1993 Basic and Advanced Certification Seminars

for Church, Associational,  
and Agency Secretaries



**ADVANCED**  
August 24-26

**BASIC**  
August 24-27



Led by JANE BARRETT, BSSB

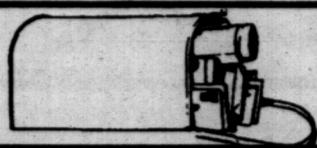
**BASIC** -- Who Southern Baptist are -- belief, heritage, purpose, organization  
The unique ministry role of the church-related secretary  
The personal issues that impact her work: self-awareness, interpersonal communication, personal goals, and spiritual growth  
How to take charge of the paperwork — from membership rolls to filing systems  
Office communication skills, including correspondence, telephone, and promotion  
Basic principles of a sound financial system  
The work flow in the office with time-saving shortcuts

**ADVANCED** — (the two modules offered this year)  
*The Secretary: Partner in Growth* — to help you discover ways you can contribute to growth in all areas of church life. Each secretary is in a position to impact growth if she will be alert to opportunities for ministry and will become an enthusiastic participant in church growth ministries.

**Office Management** — to identify how the secretary as office manager participates in planning, organizing, staffing, leading, and controlling.

**You will stay** at beautiful Camp Garaywa in Clinton. There are 49 beds with INSIDE BATH FACILITIES available on a first registered, first assigned basis! Make your plans early to be assigned to one of these spaces. **Simply complete the registration forms on the reverse side to be a part of this event.**





# Letters to the editor

## Smith is a blessing

Editor:

I have just returned from a 1993 Church Music Leadership Conference and Gulfshore. Let me tell you how much I enjoyed this experience and the opportunity to have fellowship with Baptist church musicians in Mississippi.

This was a great group of folks, and they respond enthusiastically to the strong leadership of Graham Smith. He has surrounded himself with effective associates and this is evident.

Mississippi Baptists are so fortunate to have the impact of this leadership, and I congratulate you on all that is going on in your state to strengthen the music ministry in the churches.

I read the *Baptist Record* each week and keep up with all you are doing in your state. God bless you richly.

William J. Reynolds  
Professor of church music  
Southwestern Seminary

## Is excitement answer?

Editor:

On page 7 of the July 15 edition of our *Baptist Record*, Dan Morton asks in his letter why church musicians make the music so loud that you can't understand the message.

On page 9 of the same edition, Ken Hemphill, Church Growth

Center director for our Home Mission and Sunday School Boards, is advising that for a church to "work," it must "develop" a sense of excitement."

It seems to me that Ken might have the answer to Dan's question. How better to get people "excited" than with loud music? The proper blend of Saturday night music and Sunday morning words should do the trick.

After all, we don't want to take lightly Christ's command to go into all the world and develop a sense of excitement.

Shirley H. Smith  
Gulfport

## Thanks state workers

Editor:

I am chairman of the Vietnamese Mission Coordinating Committee of Memorial Baptist Church in Tulsa. We are currently building a new facility for our Vietnamese Baptist Mission in Broken Arrow. A group of 87 of your Mississippi Builders For Christ came to our city and assisted us in our construction, and I just wanted to let Mississippians know how much we appreciate the time, energy, and effort these people put into our building program. Many of the Oklahoma Baptist Builders are busy in other locations and when we were able to get your group lined up to come and help us, we were really pleased.

It takes a special kind of person

to do what they did. We have a Christian Church located next door to our property and they "loaned us" their building for the whole week so that the Mississippians would have a place to stay, to eat, and to sleep — as well as to shower and clean up after a hard day's work. The spirit of this church was just wonderful, and it indicates that there are people wearing other names who have a magnanimous Christian spirit, too.

Thank you Mississippians!! We love you all.

Wallace H. Hough Jr.  
Vietnamese Coordinating  
Committee  
Memorial Baptist Church  
Tulsa, Okla.

**Editor's Note:** And the "Hammer and Nail" award goes to Terry Cross, state project coordinator; and to First Church, Lauderdale, of Meridian, and the Lauderdale Association.

## Search the Word

Editor:

Why are Baptists not seriously discussing what the Bible teaches on abortion? Should not all evangelical Christians test our opinions and beliefs in light of God's Word?

The "pro-life" folks among us say that "abortion is murder," and that there is nothing further to discuss, because theirs is the only true "Christian" position. Where

does the Bible say this? What are we to make of passages such as Exodus 21:22-25 (minor fine for inducing miscarriage), or Genesis 2:7 (life beginning with first breath)? Certainly the Bible teaches a profound reverence for human life, but does it necessarily teach that human life begins at conception? How many of our most fervent "pro-life" pastors conduct funeral services for miscarried fetuses or even stillborn babies?

Doctors tell us that a significant percentage of fertilized human eggs are spontaneously miscarried within a few hours or days of conception, usually without the mother even knowing she was pregnant. Do these "humans" have souls? Where do they spend eternity? Is this God's designed plan? Wouldn't it be refreshing if our annual one-sided "Sanctity of Human Life" Sunday School lesson would tackle some of these questions? What does the Bible teach?

Our "pro-choice" Baptists (and there are many) are no better when it comes to abortion exegesis. Certainly the Bible has much to say about "choice;" indeed, the gospel itself (especially as proclaimed by Baptists) is based upon the teaching that each individual has the soul competence to make moral choices. But Christians have the duty to make responsible choices, in accordance with Scriptural teaching. What are we to think of passages such as Psalm 139:13-16 (God knows us even in the womb)? Southern Baptist Bill Clinton (for whom I did not vote) says that he is "pro-choice but anti-abortion." Is this mere politi-

cal rhetoric, or is the President onto something valid here? Just how "pro-choice" can a good Christian and faithful Baptist be? Again, the appropriate Baptist inquiry must be: What does the Bible teach?

Name withheld by Editor

## Looking for pastors

Editor:

New Hope Church on Highway 45 South, Meridian, is trying to locate former pastors or their families. We would particularly like to have a photo.

If anyone can help us in this effort, please contact us at: Rt. 1, Box 399, Meridian, MS 39301.

Mike Everett, pastor  
New Hope Church  
Meridian

## Turn down volume

Editor:

Well, thank goodness for Dan Morton, retired Mississippi pastor. I really agree with him about the music in our churches. The loud screaming canned music in our churches is awful. If you leaders don't calm this loud music, before you turn around good, it will be out of control.

I've been to some churches, I mean Baptist, that one might get the idea they are in a night club. I had some young people tell me they have been to some Baptist musicals and thought they were in a rock concert. Please use your influence.

Bonnie Cole  
Bogue Chitto

## A Mississippian observes...

# Daily life, Christianity in Russia

By Sarah Peugh

Mississippi's First Lady, Pat Fordice, was in Russia attracting a St. Petersburg art exhibit to bring to Mississippi. We were far away at Lipestsk, an industrial city of 500,000, a major steel and machine center, attracting people to Christianity. We had complete religious freedom, but we did hear firsthand of the consequences Christians suffered under communist harassment.

From Moscow, we boarded an 18-car overnight train for the 300-mile trip to Lipestsk. Berths were very clean; bathrooms were terrible. We slept wherever we were placed by the reserved woman conductor in uniform who oversaw the car.

In my berth were a Russian gentleman, a pretty Russian girl, and a wonderfully hospitable aged Russian peasant who must have weighed 350 pounds. I awakened at 5; she at 6. Bringing out her wares of food, she pleasantly and happily shared with this foreigner who couldn't speak Russian. "No" to their hospitality is not in their book, so when I refused once, she told me to "eat" in Russian and I ate.

Breakfast was a cold boiled potato, a boiled egg, some fresh huckleberries. Last course was red caviar on bread, at which I placed my hands on my stomach. I gave the dear woman a religious tract and said, "Spaseba."

Russians, young and old, love America! They told me this in

1989. Boy Scouts of Russia proudly wore caps imprinted U.S.A. We visited their summer camp, formerly a communist training camp for young boys. We stood in awe that we were able to present Christianity and give out literature.

Three young musicians, Edward, Andrew, and Michael, wore U.S. flag pins, exchanging with me a Lenin military pin. All are eager to come to America and learn to speak English fluently as did our wonderful interpreter, Igor.

With the exception of the westernized, music in Russia is mostly cultural and classical. Their harmony is superb, with the choirs only using psalters. The musician and the choir director used printed music. "Blessed Assurance" by the choir of First Baptist Church, Lipestsk, blessed a familiar chord in our hearts.

Russia is fast becoming westernized. MTV airs across their 11 time zones. Coca-Cola is there; Pepsi, Reebok, Rolls Royce have been there. A bright red Chrysler Jeep, priced at \$38,000, fills a display window at Gum's Department Store (largest in the world). Las Vegas' lottery advertises there, along with the lottery for the children of Chernobyl. Due to our anti-smoking regulations and education, and loss of revenue in the U.S., Russia has been targeted by our major tobacco companies: Lucky

Strike, Camel, Phillip Morris. Millions of people smoke.

The United States has joint ventures with Russia. Germany is there in a big way with their buy-quick grocery stores, as are Austria, Finland, Italy, England, and Japan.

Radisson Hotels are also there, along with two McDonald's restaurants and Pizza Hut.

Mosquitoes, whether imports or not, are there. No United States airlines compete with Aeroflot at their two large international airports. Air France, KLM (with which Northwest has some connection), Korean Airlines, FinAir, Japan, and many South American airlines have flights every day.

Our five went with a group of 40 under the guidance of Tom Cox Ministries, with approval of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. We were received graciously by Lipestsk Mayor Sergey Chaukin. When asked if he were elected by a democratic process, the mayor responded that he was appointed by the president of Russia, and that Lipestsk was founded by Peter the Great. Asked if Catherine ruled, he emphatically stated it was Peter.

We returned to Mississippi July 1.

Peugh, of Aberdeen, is a life member of the Mississippi and National Federations of Press Women, and former editor of Mississippi Club Woman.





**Former GAs of Unity Church, West, are standing, left to right: Joanne Woods, Mobile, Ala.; Ruth Aldridge, Durant; Gayle Smith, Jackson; Sarah Hathcock, Durant; and Gail Schenck, Gulfport. Seated is their GA leader, 'Aunt' Ada McCool.**

## After 50 years former GAs reunite with leader, "Aunt" Ada

By Gayle Smith

Saturday, July 17, was a day of reunion for five former Girls in Action and their leader, affectionately called "Aunt Ada."

Some 50 years ago during a revival meeting, Aunt Ada felt God's call to be a missionary. Unable to go to a foreign field, she gave her life to working in her local church, Unity Church near West. One of her first ventures was to organize GA, Royal Ambassador, and Sunbeam organizations. The five women who hosted the July 17 reunion are the original members of her first GA group.

Aunt Ada worked tirelessly in our church and community for many years influencing the youth in our church. Under her leadership, we participated in a variety of activities, including leading Sunday afternoon services at a local nursing home, finishing steps in GAs, going to Camp Garaywa, and teaching Bible school at the black church in the West community. Not to leave the

boys out, she once held a week-long day camp at one of the local ponds.

She also lead us in becoming a part of the Bible Memory Association. One year we learned 350 Bible verses to win an award each week and in the end, a Scofield Reference Bible. We also won a free trip to Miracle Camp in Ring Gold, La.

After most of the children in the community grew up and moved away, she went to nursing school, graduating at age 52, and worked for many years at the Baptist Hospital in Jackson. She is a member of Parkway Church in Jackson.

Now 88, she spends most of her time writing her autobiography. She continues to influence the lives of young people through her seven great-grandchildren.

We all say, "Thank you, Aunt Ada," for answering God's call to become a missionary in your community.

**Smith is a member of First Church, Jackson.**

## Homecomings

**Darlove, Hollandale:** Aug. 1; John West, former pastor will bring message; covered dish lunch at noon.

**Mt. Zion, Independence:** Aug. 1; Fred Jolly, former pastor, guest speaker; meal served following 10 a.m. worship service; Austin Moore Jr., pastor.

**Big Springs, Brookhaven:** Aug. 1; 11 a.m.; Gerald Love, Dothan, Ala., guest speaker; dinner at noon; 1:45 p.m. singing; Clayton

Hart Group, Brookhaven, guest singers; Gaston L. Jones, pastor.

**Big Creek, Waynesboro:** Aug. 1; 11 a.m.; Larry Duncan, Walnut Grove, guest speaker; covered dish at noon; 1:30 p.m. singing; Duncan Sisters, Walnut Grove, guest singers; Mack Carney, pastor.

**First, McLaurin:** Aug. 1; 11 a.m.; dinner served in fellowship hall; Leon Clark, former pastor, now living in Petal, guest speaker; Johnny Place, pastor.

**Scotland, Winona:** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Johnny Hutchinson, Jonesboro, Ark., evangelist; Mark Worsham, pastor.

**Mt. Zion, Florence:** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner at church, and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Billy Thomas, Lafayette, La., evangelist; Richard and Brenda Sullivan, Grandview, Pearl, music; Tommy R. Buskin, pastor.

**Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto:** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Greg Johnston, Brookhaven, evangelist; Steve Dean, Pleasant Hill, music; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

**Antioch, Quitman:** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; David Jay, Quitman, evangelist; Vondelle Avera, Antioch, music; Lester Griffin, pastor.

**Friendship East, Charleston:** Aug. 2-6; 7:30 p.m.; Clarence Cooper, evangelist.

**Big Creek, Waynesboro:** Aug. 2-6; 7:30 p.m.; Larry Duncan, Walnut Grove, evangelist; Charlie Case, Philadelphia, music; Mack Carney, pastor.

**Harrisville (Simpson):** Aug. 1-6; 7 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; John Yates, Jackson, music; Dennis E. Allen, pastor.

**Liberty, Noxapater:** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Chuck Pourciau, Louisville, evangelist; Jeff Gardner, Louisville, music; Bobby Parish, pastor.

**Rocky Point, Carthage:** Aug. 1-6; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gene Edwin, Georgetown, evangelist; Dan Guest, Vicksburg, music; Emon White, pastor.

**Holcomb (Grenada):** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Douglas, Columbus, evangelist; Todd Buck, Olive Branch, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

**First, Durant:** Aug. 1-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Johnny Walker, Winona, evangelist.

**Society Hill, Oakvale:** Aug. 1-5; Sunday, homecoming, lunch will be served; revival, Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Lynn Stephens, Zebulon, N. C., guest speaker; Dudley Williamson, music; Glen Nelson, pastor.

**Blythe Creek, Mathiston:** Aug. 1-6; Bible study at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. services; David Prell, Sunset, La., evangelist; Sandra Williams, Blythe Creek, music; Greg Foster, pastor.

**Central, Brookhaven:** Aug. 1-5; Q.T. Curtis, evangelist; Bobby

## Revival Dates

J. McDonald, pastor.

**Bogue Chitto (Lincoln):** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, regular morning service, fellowship meal served, 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tony Mullins, Meadville, evangelist; Randy and Janice Carruth, Summit, music; Keith Wallace, pastor.

**Rena Lara (North Delta):** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Mike Smithey, Marks, evangelist; Robert Shaw, Marks, music; John Purvis, pastor.

**Bethany, Slate Spring (Calhoun):** Aug. 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Kenneth Cromeans, Bryan, Texas, evangelist; Don McMasters, Bruce, music; Henry E. Hight, pastor.

**Holly Springs (Lincoln):** Aug. 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, special music by Jaime Diamond and the Messengers at 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Alvin Lyons, Copiah County, evangelist; Heartfelt singers and Elizabeth Rogers, Union Hall, music; nursery provided; Glenn McInnis, pastor.

**Hickory (Newton):** Aug. 7-11; 7 p.m. nightly; Jimmy Knight, Laurel, evangelist and music leader; Rodney Anderson, pastor.

**Crowder (North Delta):** Aug. 9-11; 7:30 nightly; Mike Smithey, Marks, evangelist; Jasper Butler, Brandon, music; Discipleship Weekend, Aug. 6-8, 7 nightly, coordinated by Ernest Gunter, Tupelo; Harey Sewell, pastor.

**Fellowship, Summit:** Aug. 6-8; 7 nightly; Sunday, regular services, dinner on the grounds, afternoon service, 1:15; special offering for cemetery fund; Donald I. Pounds, evangelist; Greg Thornton, music; Gary Creech, pastor.

## Revival Results

**Liberty (Mississippi):** July 11-15; Gary Bowlin, Brandon, evangelist; J.B. McElroy, Liberty, music; 13 professions of faith and one for full-time service; Michael W. Glenn, pastor.

## Wiggins mission becomes church

On Aug. 1, North Hill Mission in Wiggins will be chartered as a church.

Speaker for the morning worship service will be Burn Page, pastor of First Church, Wiggins. A dinner on the grounds will follow.

The charter service will begin at 2 p.m., with a reception following that service. A nursery will be provided.

# Churches can minister to unchurched through divorce recovery programs

By Terri Lackey

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — With proper programming, churches can become an environment to heal the hurts of divorced people, according to a specialist in single adult work.

Since 50% of the couples in the United States who marry get divorces, churches have a wide-open market to minister to those who have gone through the trauma of permanent separation, said Tim Cleary of the Baptist Sunday School Board's Discipleship and Family Adult Department.

Cleary led seminars on conducting divorce recovery programs in the local church during the Sunday School Board's Discipleship and Family Development Conference, July 17-23, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center.

Resources and the willingness of church leaders to hold seminars and workshops for divorced people will bring outsiders flocking to the church, Cleary said.

"The majority of divorced people you could reach are unchurched," he said. "To reach out to those people is just pure evangelism."

Divorces affect more than the couple, Cleary said. They affect the children; they affect the couple's family; and they affect friends.

Ultimately, a church would be able to offer a holistic approach to divorce recovery, he said. That

would involve ministry to singles again, separated people, and married couples who are considering divorces. Group help also might be offered for children, families, and friends.

Divorce recovery ministry can start as simply as handing a friend a book, Cleary said.

"Do we treat them as lepers or as people who have had a significant loss? If we could do simple human-touch kinds of things for them, and then hand them a book, that's a start in helping them through their divorce," he said.

Recovering from a divorce is a long process, Cleary said. "There is no microwave for divorce recovery."

Following is a list of resources: *Hope for the Divorced*, Howard Stevens, Convention Press; *Divorce — The Pain and The Healing*, Judith Mattison, Augsburg Publishing House; *Coping with Being Single Again*, J. Clark Hensley, Broadman Press; *Dating with Integrity*, John Holzman, Wolgemuth & Hyatt Publishers; *Single But Not Alone*, Ellen Weber, Broadman Press; and "Divorce Recovery," a LIFE Support resource to be released in April 1994.

Lackey writes for BSSB.

## C.A. Orr dies July 24 in Starkville

Claude Anderson Orr, 87, father of MBCB business administrator A. Jennings Orr, died July 24 at Oktibbeha County Hospital in Starkville. Funeral service was held July 26 in the chapel of Welch Funeral Home in Starkville, with interment at Parkway Cemetery in Kosciusko.

The retired parts manager for Starkville Tractor Company was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II and a member of First United Methodist Church of Starkville. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Inez Jennings Orr, in 1967. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Aileen Boyd Orr; son, A. Jennings Orr of Jackson, and stepson Albert H. (Bill) Boyd of Starkville; six grandchildren; and ten great-grandchildren.

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**LARGE SUBURBAN CHURCH** in St. Charles, Missouri, is seeking God's man for pastor. Send resume and video to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Harvester, 4075 Highway 94 S., St. Charles, MO 63304.

Thursday, July 29, 1993

# Names in the News

Don R. Vaughan, pastor of Self Creek Church, Starkville, has recently earned the MA degree through Southern Baptist Center for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Fla.

He will be presented the diploma at the 11 a.m. worship service on Aug. 1.

James Pleitz, 64, pastor of Park Cities Church, Dallas, announced to the church's deacon board July 19 his intention to retire Sept. 26. Pleitz's denominational service included a term as chairman of the

SBC Executive Committee, 1968-69, and trustee chairman for the Radio and Television Commission, 1972-73.

The adult and youth bell choirs of Salem Church, Collins, will perform in Washington, D.C. on July 31 and Aug. 1. The groups will perform on the grounds of the White House from 10-11 a.m. on Saturday and at the Old Post Office Pavilion from 12-12:30 p.m. on Sunday. The group, under the direction of Gwen Hitt, minister of music, will return home Aug. 3.

W. Elmo Mercer of Nashville, composer of more than 1,600 gospel songs, will present a concert at

Spring Hill Church, Marshall Association, at 6 p.m., Aug. 8. He will be guest pianist in the Sunday services and will be joined by his wife Marcia in presenting special music.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Reuben Herring, 71, retired senior editor of *Home Life* magazine and longtime employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board, died July 21 after a lengthy illness. He was the author of 16 books and numerous articles for denominational publications.

Southern Cross will be featured in a gospel concert at Pleasant Ridge Church, Sturgis, on July 31 at 7 p.m.

## Staff Changes

Chip Colee has been called as minister of music and youth of First Church, Quitman. The Prattville, Ala., native previously served First Church, Owenston, Ky. He was educated at Southern Seminary, and Samford University.

Calvary Church, Meridian, has called Lisa Gurley-Reid as minister to children and youth. Her responsibilities will also include teaching music at Calvary Christian School. Gurley-Reid formerly served as minister of music and youth at Walthall Church. She was educated at

Wood Junior College and Mississippi State University. H.M. Smith is pastor.

Rick Patrick has been called as minister of music and youth by Southside Church, Jackson. The Brandon native previously served at New Home Church in Perry, Fla. He was educated at Mississippi College. Don Bozeman is pastor.

Spring Hill Church, Copiah Association, has called Gary G. Davis as pastor, effective July 4. He presently serves as association

al clerk for Copiah Association. A native of New Sight community near Brookhaven, Davis is a graduate of Mississippi College. He previously served Pearl Valley Church.

John R. Cofer has recently become pastor of Liberty Church, Flowood. He received his education at Temple Theological Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary. He previously served churches in Georgia and Mississippi.

Parkway Church, Natchez, has called Kevin D. Hurt as minister of church growth and programs. He is a native of Cullman, Ala., and a graduate of New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as minister of youth at First Church, Covington, Tenn.

## Neglect of moral education places America in peril, Bennett warns

WASHINGTON (ABP) — The United States is paying a high price for the neglect of its soul, former U.S. Secretary of Education William Bennett warns.

As the emphasis on the moral education of children has decreased and even disappeared in many ways, the social problems facing the nation have skyrocketed, Bennett charges. And make no mistake, he insists, there is a direct link between the two.

"The social regression of the last 30 years is due in large part to the enfeebled state of our social institutions and their failure to carry out a

critical and time-honored task: the moral education of the young," Bennett writes. "We desperately need to recover a sense of the fundamental purpose of education, which is to engage in the architecture of souls."

Bennett, a possible Republican presidential candidate in 1996, attempts just that in his 22-page report. He finds evidence of "substantial social regression," "serious social and behavioral problems," and "a marked shift in the public's beliefs, attitudes, and priorities."

The index focuses on trends in seven key areas in support of such a view. They included:

— Crime. Statistics in this area reflect a rocketing increase in the number of crimes committed and in the rate of arrest of juveniles for violent crimes.

The number of total crimes in the nation has risen more than 300% in the last three decades. The number of violent crimes has jumped more than 500%. The index notes the 41% population growth since 1960 cannot account for all of the increase.

However, there has been a marked

decrease in the average prison sentence for all serious crimes, the index notes. In 1954, the median prison sentence for all serious crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft) was 22.5 days. In 1990, the median figure was eight days.

Meanwhile, the teenage pregnancy rate has skyrocketed in the last two decades. In 1970, 49 of every 1,000 teenage girls became pregnant. By 1990, the rate was 99 in 1,000. In 1970, 20 of every 1,000 had abortions. By 1990, 44 in 1,000 chose abortion.

At the same time, the nation's illegitimate birth rate was skyrocketing as well, from 224,300 births in 1960 to 1.2 million in 1990. Currently, about 28% of all births are illegitimate.

— Television viewing. The index cites a steady increase in daily television viewing among Americans, from five hours a day in 1960 to seven hours a day in 1992. The index notes that 56% of respondents in a 1991 survey said they felt television had the greatest influence on children's values.

## PLANNING A REVIVAL?

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## Just for the Record



**Anna Teel and Kristie Fincher** were crowned queen under the theme "Our Journey with Jesus" at First Church, Holly Springs, June 6. They completed the first level of StudiAct. The girls received crowns, certificates, and flowers, and were honored with a reception.



**Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs**, recently held a special service, "God's Bouquet," to honor its Acteens. Pictured, from left, are Nicole Stone, Karyn Doffing, Priscilla Thomas, Acteen director, Lauren Germany, and Alicia Lang.



**First Church, Senatobia**, held a recognition service on May 19 for its GAs and Acteens. GAs are pictured at top. Acteens are pictured in bottom photo. Emmy Jarjura is GA director.

**First Church, Marks**, sent its youths on a summer mission trip May 28-June 5 to Gulf Shores, Ala. The group, which split into two teams, worked in Vacation Bible Schools at the state park and the city park. The worship service at the state park set a record of attendance. Aleesa Naish, minister of youth and music, led the group.

**Paul Powell**, president and CEO of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention located in

Dallas, Texas, will be the commencement speaker at Mississippi College's summer graduation exercises Aug. 6 at 2 p.m. in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on campus.

**Osyka Church, Osyka**, held its Vacation Bible School July 12-16. The theme "Summershine" was used to promote pleasant associations of summer as linked to VBS. There was an average of 60 children and 25 adults in attendance each day.

### Knights Valley celebrates centennial

Knights Valley Church, Vossburg, (Clarke County) will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Aug. 1.

Singing, colonial dress, and other "old-fashioned" activities will be part of that celebration, the first of its kind in the history of the church.

C.C. Burns of Enterprise serves as pastor of the church, founded in 1893.

### W.T. Holloway dies at age 83

**W.T. Holloway** of Mathiston, pastor of Clear Springs Church in Choctaw County, died July 17 in Eupora. He was 83. Services were held July 19 with burial in Monte Vista Cemetery in Webster County.

The Calhoun County native had pastored churches in Webster, Choctaw, and Calhoun counties for 57 years.

He is survived by his wife, Clara Mae Holloway; sons Willie, of Mathiston and Joel, of Petal; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

### Lockwood dies after battle with cancer

**NORTH SYRACUSE, N.Y.** (BP) — Patricia Ann "Pat" Towler Lockwood, 45, of North Syracuse, N.Y., died July 21 at St. Joseph's Hospital after a lengthy battle with cancer. She is the wife of Quentin "Chip" Lockwood Jr., editor of the *New York Baptist* newsjournal.

Mrs. Lockwood, a native of Hopkinsville, Ky., taught ninth-grade social studies for more than eight years with the North Syracuse School District.

**Highland Church, Vicksburg**, recently held a recognition service for its Mission/Friends, GAs, and Acteens. Mission Friends, pictured, top photo, from left, are Benjamin Breazeale, John Cochran, Lonnie Heard, Erin Woerner, Adam Embry, Adam Bryan, and Ryan Richardson. The leaders are Marsha Henley and Gwen Trimble.

GAs in grades 1-3, pictured, second photo, front row, are Andrea Jennings, Krystal Cochran, Keri Hodnett, Alexandra Henley, Laura Beth Steen; back row, Marla Richardson, Melanie Heard, Amy Binns, Lauren Newton, Jennifer Jennings, Brittany Breazeale, and Amanda Gettinger. The leader is Robin Herrington. GAs in grades 4-6, third photo, are Tracy Gordon, Megan Terry; back row, Jessica Rickles, Gina Hull, Mindy Shinn, Rachel Patten, and Melanie Herrington. The leader is Joyce Shinn.

Acteens, pictured above, front row, are Brea Hugley, queen; Erin Loper, queen; Haley Terry, queen with scepter; Tina Shinn, queen with scepter; back row, Whitney Richardson, queen; Jennifer Richmond, queen with scepter; Tara Hall, service aide; Carrie Henley, queen with scepter; Melissa Herrington, queen with scepter; and Amanda Kate Richardson, queen regent in service. The leader is Jackie Richardson.

## Uniform New life in Christ



By Michael O'Brien  
Ephesians 1:15-2:10; 3:14-19

The text for today's lesson is one of the most evangelistic passages outside of the book of Romans; especially Ephesians 2:8-9. In the last half of Chapter 1, Paul offers a prayer for his readers' understanding (1:15-23). Before you go on with this lesson, go back and read those verses again. Listen to this man's heartbeat as he opens up to these Ephesian believers: "I have not stopped giving thanks for you....," "I keep asking God..." "...may give you the Spirit..." It is so apparent that Paul loved this church.

**God's gracious gift (2:1-10).** Paul contrasts the two lives of the believer. He speaks of death, but not physical. He reminds his readers that they had been "spiritually" dead. We must remind ourselves daily that not only are the unsaved dead in trespass and sin, at one time we were just like them. Perhaps you do see your past sins as overwhelming, as are some of the obvious sins visible in the world today, but the precious blood of Jesus was spilled for whatever your sins were.

Secondly, Paul keys in on their "new" life in Christ (4-7). He has "made us alive with Christ," Paul explains. We were dead, but not any more. His reasoning is this: we did not deserve it, however. He loves us and is rich in mercy. Paul is so sure of our final relationship with Christ that he speaks of it in the present tense. We are "raised up with Christ and seated with him in the heavenly realms." Folks, we are already there. This is why Christians can speak with assurance, with confidence, with an attitude of victory. We will not get saved when we get to heaven, we are saved as though we have already arrived.

Paul wants something to be abundantly clear in all of this: God gets the glory! Listen to this verse as I place some emphasis on some key words: "...in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of HIS GRACE, expressed in HIS KINDNESS to us in Christ Jesus" (Eph. 2:7 NIV).

Someone has said that we are saved by works, but Jesus did them all. In tender love, I say to those who believe in a "works" salvation, read Ephesians 2:8-10 prayerfully. If you are saved, it is by grace, Paul points out. Grace, God's unmerited favor, is the sole reason for our trip to heaven. Man gets involved only as he exercises faith. Some say they do not have the faith to believe. The apostles felt much the same way when they said, "...Lord,... increase our faith" (Luke 17:5). We all need to understand that it is the desire of Almighty God that "none should perish" (2 Peter 3:9).

Sunday School teacher, church leader, deacon, or whoever, examine your own experience and be sure that you are truly saved. When you are confident that you are a heaven-bound, blood-washed, born-again believer, share that faith with those who are without.

**Paul's prayer for his readers (3:14-19).** Paul has two things in mind when he offers this prayer. First, he prays that his readers will be strengthened by the Spirit of God (vv. 14-16). Spiritual living is not accomplished in worldly strength. Believers need to be strengthened in the inner person. You and I must understand that God did not promise an easy life, but an abundant life (John 10:10). Strength to fight spiritual battles will only come from God and that through his Word and his Spirit. Secondly, Paul asks God to help his readers to grasp the fullness of the love of God. The term Paul uses — rooted — expresses that we should be planted in the love of God. That is because things that are planted grow; and Paul wants the love of God to grow in us. God is reaching out to a lost world, and you are the instrument he is going to use.

O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.



## Bible Book Growing in the life God gives



By Jewel P. Merritt  
2 Peter 1:3-11, 16-18, 20-21

One of the joys of being a parent is watching your child grow up. You rejoice in each new accomplishment — crawling, walking, talking, reading, singing, etc. Spiritual growth should be such that it brings our heavenly Father joy also. Peter's second letter encouraged the early Christians to grow in the knowledge of the Lord.

**The source of the godly life (vv. 3-4).** In a recent sermon, Frank Pollard reminded us that we cannot buy anything from God. Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8 that our salvation and our faith are gifts from God. Peter told his readers that God's power had given them everything they needed to grow spiritually in him. Can we be sure of this, too? In verse 4 we are reminded of God's great and precious promises. And God always keeps his promises.

**An appeal for growth in the godly life (vv. 5-11).** As a former teacher, I can vouch for the fact that a teacher can only do so much. Material can be mastered by the teacher and presented in a meaningful way. Teachers can encourage pupils to study, to master necessary skills, to grow in academic knowledge. But initiative is necessary on the part of the student. The most effective motivation is self-inspired. God, our master teacher, our concerned Father, has given us everything we need to grow in our Christian walk. But growth requires effort on our part, too.

Peter listed virtues that we should add to the faith God has given us. First, he mentioned goodness, virtue, or moral excellence. If we would grow in moral excellence, we must heed Paul's admonition in 1 Thessalonians 5:22: "Avoid every kind of evil."

**Knowledge** was the next virtue Peter mentioned. Someone has said that Christianity is not a religion. It is a relationship with our Lord. Growing in knowledge of him is a sign of spiritual health. Knowledge leads naturally to self-control, mastery of all that would destroy our witness. Sins like lying, gossip, temper, laziness, and drug abuse come quickly to mind.

To self-control, Peter added patience, or steadfastness. Christians should resolve to go steadfastly with God through our daily lives and into eternity. Only the assurance that God goes through all life's experiences with us can give us such calm resolve. **Godliness** is next on Peter's list. Have you noticed children patterning their speech and actions after that of their parents? We should be growing in godliness, seeking to imitate the actions of our Heavenly Father.

To godliness we should add brotherly kindness. Why not start a "kindness revolution" in your neighborhood? Perhaps we could all begin with our attitudes when we drive our cars. The greatest virtue of all is love, the kind of love God has extended to us. Peter said in verse 8 that growing in these qualities will keep us from being ineffective and unproductive. Be eager to grow in the Lord. Such zeal and fruitful labor will allow us to receive a rich welcome into the presence of our Lord.

**Peter's message confirmed by his eye-witness experience (vv. 16-18).** Do you share Peter's assurance of Jesus' second coming? Peter, James, and John had been eye-witnesses of Jesus' majesty and glory on the Mount of Transfiguration. Seeing such a wonderful thing and hearing God's voice approving of Jesus' actions let Peter know that Christ would surely come again.

**Peter's message confirmed by Old Testament Scripture (vv. 20-21).** Not only was Peter an eye-witness to the Transfiguration, he, and we, had/have the message from the prophets. Peter reminded his readers that just as the Lord inspired the prophets, so the Holy Spirit will help us understand their writings. How healthy are you and I spiritually? Let's pray for each other as we strive with his help, to be "workmen who need not be ashamed" (2 Tim. 2:15).

Merritt is a member of First Church, Jackson.

## Life and Work

Wisdom reflected in speech



By Mark A. Rathel  
James 3:1-18

Ask yourself, "During this past year, if someone paid me \$10 for every kind word I spoke about other people, and also collected \$5 from me for every unkind word I spoke, would I be rich or poor?"

James challenges Christians, and particularly teachers, to reflect Christ in speech and behavior. Christians can meet this challenge only by the means of godly wisdom imparted through the indwelling Spirit.

**The necessity of wisdom (vv. 1-4).** Because of their Jewish heritage, the most prized position in the Jewish Christian church which James addressed was that of teacher. Earthly wisdom caused many church members to selfishly desire the prestige bestowed upon teachers. James cautions would-be teachers that the great honor given to teachers means greater responsibility. Teachers are responsible for instructing others in wisdom. God will judge reckless statements, reliance solely upon rhetorical skills, misleading assertions, and lifestyles which do not undergird the teachings. Teachers need heavenly wisdom to responsibly fulfill their roles.

Our tongues reveal either the presence or lack of godly wisdom. We all, including James, stumble or sin. Most people are more prone or apt to sin in the area of speech. A person able to control his/her tongue evidences discipline and spiritual maturity in other areas of life. Such control is possible only through wisdom imparted through the indwelling of the Spirit.

The tongue is a small body part, but it exercises great influence. James employed the illustrations of a bit, a rudder, and a spark to emphasize the power of the tongue. Our speech either can be a positive influence or a negative influence.

**Lack of wisdom demonstrated by inconsistent speech (vv. 5-12).** Like a fire, a Christian's usage of his/her tongue can cause great destruction. The tongue, of course, operates under the direction of the mind. Unwise thought processes can corrupt a person's entire life. The source of the destructive power of an inflammatory tongue is hell or Satan. Pentecost, however, demonstrated that God can set a tongue on fire for positive results.

Man is able to tame animals, but without God's assistance man can not tame the tongue. The tongue is full of deadly poison. Christians who would never consider serving a meal with poison often serve a meal with poisonous, vicious gossip.

William Norris expressed sage advice in a poem:

If your lips you would keep from slips,  
five things observe with care:  
To whom you speak; of whom you speak;  
and how, and when, and where."

Unwise Christians praise God in worship and then angrily curse a brother or sister in Christ. Since people are made in the image of God, angry curses are directed against God in reality. Nature operates on the basis of consistency; in nature, like produces like. On one hand, the inconsistency of praise/curse is contrary to nature. On the other hand, inconsistent speech may reveal a person's true nature. The fruit of our lips may demonstrate our family resemblance.

**Wisdom is reflected in behavior (v. 13).** Evidently some individuals in the churches James addressed, possibly the individuals desiring to be teachers, claimed to be wise. True wisdom is not demonstrated by a loud profession but rather in behavior.

**Traits of earthly wisdom (vv. 14-16).** Earthly wisdom is marked by bitter envy and selfish ambition. A person with a worldly perspective refuses to be reconciled and has self as the highest goal. Earthly wisdom results in confusion or disorder, literally anarchy, within the church.

**Traits of heavenly wisdom (vv. 17-18).** James pictures heavenly wisdom by describing how wisdom functions in relationships. People marked by wisdom are pure, they have no hidden agenda; they love peace; they are considerate; they are submissive, easy to be reconciled; they are merciful to the hurts and faults of others; they exhibit neither partiality nor hypocrisy.

Rathel is pastor, Bay Vista Church, Biloxi.

# capsules

**BENNETT FACES CANCER SURGERY: NASHVILLE (BP)** — Harold C. Bennett, president emeritus of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, was scheduled to undergo surgery for prostate cancer July 27 at Baptist Hospital in Nashville. Bennett, in a letter to friends, explained in "some physical examinations and tests, the doctor has discovered that I have cancer of the prostate and must have a radical prostatectomy," or removal of the prostate gland. Bennett, 68, led the Executive Committee from 1979 until his retirement in 1992. He was elected as a Baptist World Alliance vice president in 1990 and is chairman of both BWA's personnel committee and program committee for the August 1995 Baptist World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

**FUTURE OF KIDNAPPED NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES STILL UNCERTAIN IN PANAMA: (EP)** — Five months have passed since three New Tribes missionaries were kidnapped from the Kuna village of Pucuro in Panama on January 31. It has been over a month since any word has been received from the captors, although during the last week of June two members of the crisis team flew into Pucuro, under police protection, and took medical supplies and cash to reimburse the Kuna for money taken by the kidnappers the night of the raid. New Tribes Mission hopes to communicate to the village that the mission has not abandoned them.

**BAPTIST LEADERS URGE PROTEST OF NEW RUSSIA RELIGION LAW: RICHMOND, Va. (BP)** — People opposing a new law that would cripple religious liberty and human rights in Russia (see related articles, page 6) are being urged by Baptist leaders around the world to register their opposition. Some suggested steps: — Call your U.S. senator and representative at (202) 224-3121 and ask them to join with Senator Richard Lugar's opposition by signing his letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Yeltsin must decide whether to sign the law. — Call the White House at (202) 456-1111 and tell the operator you want President Bill Clinton to take action to persuade President Yeltsin to refuse to sign the bill into law — or at least to have an impact on implementing regulation and enforcement. — Register support for Senator Lugar by sending a FAX message to (202) 224-7877 or telephoning his office at (202) 224-1290. — Send a FAX to Boris Yeltsin at 011-7-095-206-3961 or 011-7-095-206-3591. — Send a FAX to the Russian Embassy in Washington at (202) 347-5028.

**MONUMENT ON STATE GROUNDS COULD BE A VIOLATION, SAYS COURT: DENVER, Colo. (EP)** — The Colorado Court of Appeals ruled that a stone monument inscribed with the Ten Commandments is not permitted on state grounds near the State Capitol. The monument is one of dozens erected around the country in connection with the release of Cecile B. DeMille's movie, "The Ten Commandments," in the 1950s. The court ruled June 17 that the location of the monument could be construed as an impermissible government endorsement of religion. The court ordered the trial court to determine if the monument should be removed or altered.

**SPECIAL BULLETS TO BE IMPLEMENTED TO CURB TERRORIST VIOLENCE: (EP)** — According to Jerusalem News Service, a strategy used by a Jewish Marine colonel during the Spanish-American War has inspired an Israeli inventor to patent bullets and synthetic rocks that "kill the souls" of terrorists motivated by Islamic fundamentalism. Chemist Rabbi Moshe Antelman says his bullets hold promise in defusing the *intifada* uprising in Israel. The deadly ingredient in the ammunition is pork. "Neither Jew or Moslem is allowed to eat pork, but religious Moslems also believe that contact with swine kills the soul," said Antelman, an orthodox rabbi. The inventor, who is also chief advisor for the Department of Nuclear Physics at the Weizmann Institute, proposes manufacturing the projectiles from pork lard. By mixing pork lard with copolymers, Antelman has formed bullets similar to the hard rubber ones currently in use by the Israeli Defense Forces in fighting the *intifada*. His synthetic rocks are compositions of ground, dried pork bones.

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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CYN QLUM ZLUDD AM BNLCAM U HUS, AC LO  
ZLUDD IUAS MLO QLYDO QYNDT, UST DYZO LAZ  
YQS ZYED?

HUNX OAILM: MLANMF-ZAW

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Six:Twenty-one.

## Itawamba BSU focuses on missions while spreading gospel far and wide

By Wayne Vandiver

There's a certain name that should come up in any discussion of missions: Baptist Student Union (BSU). BSU is placed on college campuses nationwide as a ministry for college students, and missions serves as one of the foundation stones on which the total BSU program is built.

Here's a case in point: The BSU at Itawamba Community College (ICC) in Fulton has about 150 students involved in its program. It would be classified as one of the midsized BSUs in the state, but when it comes to missions giving and going, it is one of the biggest!

This year alone, the ICC BSU has raised over \$25,000 for missions and sponsored three mission trips, the Mississippi BSU summer missionaries program, and regular ministries to a local nursing home, and home for abused girls.

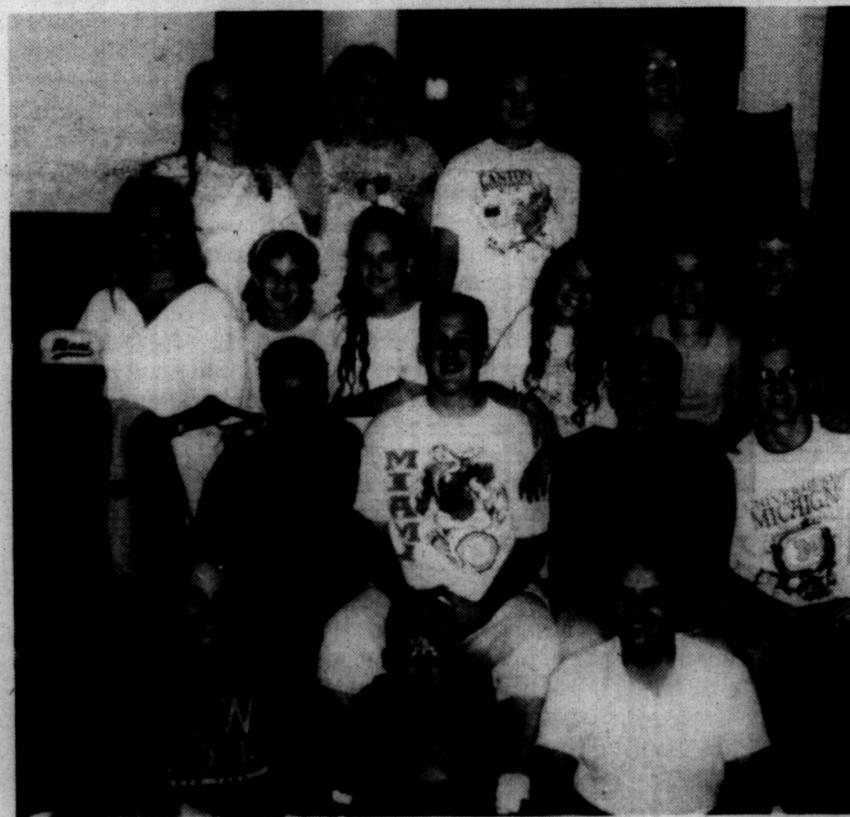
The first mission trip was an eight-day experience in Ypsilanti, Mich., in August of 1992. Eleven students and BSU director Wayne Vandiver worked with Graceway Church. Their work included



Argentina Vacation Bible School class and teachers

youth activities and door-to-door survey/witnessing. The church's youths saw how teenagers can pull together and have a good time serving God. Most committed their lives to Christ, and four others accepted Christ.

The second mission trip was to Cordoba City, Argentina, on Dec. 26, 1992-Jan. 10, 1993. Vandiver was replaced on this trip with a better, more qualified leader —



Youth group of Graceway Church, Ypsilanti, Mich.



Spring break mission team in Ruston, La.

Mrs. Vandiver. "Miss Connie" had a special interest in this trip; her sister and brother-in-law are SBC missionaries in Argentina.

Mrs. Vandiver and nine team members taught SBC missionaries' children in Vacation Bible School during the annual missions conference at a camp near Cordoba City. This was the longest and most expensive trip the ICC BSU has ever sponsored.

March 13-20, Vandiver took 10 students to Ruston, La., where they worked with Rolling Hills Resort Ministries under the direction of David Abernathy. One of the highlights was seeing a 14-year-old girl pray to receive Christ.

Yes, missions and BSU are interchangeable terms. Every college campus is a mission field, and BSU is the Southern Baptist way of reaching those campuses for Christ. Students who get involved have the opportunity to live and breathe missions by giving, going, praying, and being.

Someone once said, "Missions is evangelism where you are not; evangelism is missions where you are." If this definition holds true, then one of the best places to see it lived out is at your local Baptist Student Union.

Vandiver is BSU director, ICC.

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